

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 FEA-02

AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /244 W

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P R 192003Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5954

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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UNCLAS CARACAS 9290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL ENDORSES ENERGY CONFERENCE
IDEA

REF: A) LONDON 12092; B) CARACAS 8448

1. ACTING MINIES AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTER FERNANDO BAEZ DUARTE STATED IN EXCLUSIVE PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 19 THAT VENEZUELA IS DISPOSED TO SIT DOWN AT A NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH PETROLEUM CONSUMING COUNTRIES, BUT ALWAYS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ENERGY QUESTION BEANALYZED WITHIN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF WORLD PROBLEMS CONCERNING TRADE, THE MONETARY SITUATION AND THE LIMITATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONFRONTED BY LDCS) ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCALE.

2. INTERVIEW WAS SCHEDULED BY REPORTER TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN REACTION TO SAUDI OIL MINISTER YAMANI REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL A. ARTICLE STATES VENEZUELAN OIL EXPERTS WERE NOT SURPRISED BY YAMANI PROPOSAL, SINCE IT COINCIDES WITH VENEZUELAN POLICY POSITION. ACTING MINISTER BAEZ TOLD REPORTER THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS ALREADY INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS, ANDHIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN POSITION OF BEING READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH CONSUMING COUNTIRES.

3. ACTING MINISTER SAID THAT PROPOSED MEETINGWOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN RAW MATERIALS WHICH CONTINUE DEPRESSED (PRESUMABLY THIS REFERS TO PRICES), OPENING OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR (LDC) MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM CRISIS. WHEN THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT TO ANALYZE IN DEPTH AND SEEK ADEQUATE SOLUTIONS FOR THESE PROBLEMS, THEN PRODUCING COUNTRIES CAN DISCUSS SUPPLY AND PRICES OF PETROLEUM. IF THIS IS INTENTION OF YAMANI'S REMARKS, THEN VENEZUELA IS AGREEABLE TO DIALOGUE WITH CONSUMING COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

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4. REMAINDER OF INTERVIEW CONCENTRATED ON WELL-KNOWN PRODUCER COUNTRY ARGUMENTS DEFENDING CURRENT LEVEL OF OIL PRICES. ACTING MINISTER'S STATEMENTS COINCIDE WITH THOSE MADE REFTEL B BYPEREZ GUERRERO, VENEZUELAN MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

5. PRESIDENT FORD'S UN SPEECH, TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S TESTIMONRY BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE COMMENTING OF POSSIBLE

CHANGE OF U.S. POLICY TOWARDS OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND
FEA DIRECTOR SAWHILL'S OBSERVATION THAT OIL SUPPLY PROBLEM MAY
EVOLVE FROM COMMERCIAL QUESTION TO ONE OF NATIONAL SURVIVAL,
ALL WERE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE IN SEPTEMBER 19 CARACAS
PRESS. STATEMENT BY VENEZUELAN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IN
UN MISSION OSVALDO GAMBOA ALSO FEATURED, QUOTING GAMBOA AS
SAYING THAT VENEZUELA DOES NOT CONSIDER PRESIDENT FORD WAS
ALLUDING TO THIS COUNTRY IN HIS SPEECH, SINCE VENEZUELA DOES
NOT USE ITS (PETROLEUM) RICHES FOR POLITICAL ENDS.
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